World class status to stations in Maharashtra

†724. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated any plan to grant world class status to some railway stations;

(b) the total number of stations proposed to be given such status; and

(c) the names of stations in Maharashtra which would be given such status and whether necessary arrangements have been made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have identified 22 railway stations for development as world class stations through Public Private Partnership route by leveraging the real-estate potential at the stations. From the State of Maharashtra, Pune & Carnac Bunder (Mumbai) railway stations are among the 22 stations identified for development as World Class station.

Production of new rail coaches

725. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new rail coaches proposed to be produced will not only be of lightweight but also carry more passengers;

(b) if so details thereof; and

(c) the time frame within which these coaches would be introduced and how far would these be more remunerative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Modern Generation light weight Stainless Steel coach design was acquired under Transfer of Technology with M/s Alstom. Indigenous manufacture of such coaches has already commenced at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala since 2002 and till date about 400 such coaches have already been manufactured and have been inducted in service. Besides being light weight, the average passenger carrying capacity of these types of coaches is higher than the corresponding conventional design coach by about 12% thereby earning extra revenue.

Bids for modernisation of stations

726. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have invited bids for station modernisation;

(b) if so, the details of their modernisation plan; and

(c) what are the details of the railway stations proposed to be modernised on the ECoR system under this project?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.